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# OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

WIL LOU GRAY  
OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL

VOLUME 2

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MARCH 1986

## A SENSE OF MISSION

MAY 28 1986

by Sam F. Drew, Jr., Superintendent

*"We have spent a great deal of time developing excellence in our Educational System. It is now time to turn to those who for various reasons are not in the system - to get them back in or provide services to help them become productive citizens..."*

Governor Dick Riley  
October, 1985

These words, recently spoken by Governor Dick Riley at a meeting of the Children's Coordinating Cabinet, related precisely to what has been the guiding philosophy of the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School through the years.

Ours has always been a philosophy focused on assisting those who for various reasons could not benefit from the regular educational system. That philosophy as applied by Dr. Gray when she founded the School translated to a mission of meeting the needs of the large population of adult South Carolinians who had not completed High School. Today the same philosophy guides our work with young people who are not successful in the regular school system.

Firmness of purpose and flexibility of Mission have always been the winning combination with the Opportunity School - allowing it, within its philosophical framework, to meet current needs in the State as those needs arose and were recognized.

For these reasons, the current Board of Trustees wanted to review the pressing needs recognized statewide as appropriate to the school's philosophy and define the current mission of the School vis-a-vis those needs.

The Board, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Marvin Efron, appointed an Ad Hoc Committee to undertake the mission study. The Committee was composed of the following members:

Mrs. Elizabeth Thrailkill, Chairman  
Mrs. Olive Wilson  
Mr. Vincent Rhodes  
Ms. Patricia Watts

Under the leadership of Dr. Efron and continuing under the leadership of the new Board Chairman, Mrs. Hannah Meadors, the Committee worked on its task for a full year.

The Committee divided its work into three main areas:

- a) Exploring the historical development of the school

- b) Gathering and analyzing information about the current work, and
- c) Assessing future needs of the State that could be addressed by the school.

Many persons were invited to speak to the committee and present their ideas concerning State needs that the school should address. Among the persons presenting information to the committee were:

Dr. Terry Peterson, Director of Education in the Governor's Office,  
Dr. Donald Thomas, Deputy Superintendent for Accountability in the South Carolina Department of Education,  
Dr. Jerome Hanley, Deputy Director of Health and Human Services in the Governor's Office,  
Mrs. B.J. Hopper, Director of the South Carolina Continuum of Care Project, and,  
Mr. Hayes Mizell, Director of the South Carolina Youth Unemployment Initiative.

In addition to the Statement of Mission at the conclusion of the study, the committee made seven recommendations which were adopted by the Board. They were:

- 1) The Board affirm the School's work with truant youth and encourage the development of programs to meet the needs of these truant youth.

(Cont. pg. 3)

## STATE LEADERS DISCUSS OCCUPATIONAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

The Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School hosted the Midlands Occupational and Economic Development Forum Friday, November 8, 1985. The Forum provided a substantial amount of very useful information which will be used to help formulate the specifics of the New Employment Revitalization Act.

Governor Riley, in attendance, feels strongly that the involvement of citizens in the policymaking process has formed the backbone of South Carolina's success in the improvement of education in the state. Approximately 300 citizens representing ten counties from the midlands provided input to the Occupational and Economic Forum.

## MISSION OF THE OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL

The Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School exists to serve those citizens of South Carolina at least fifteen years of age who are most at risk of:

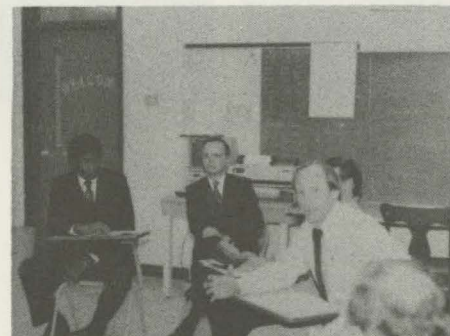
1. Dropping out and not completing their education, and/or
2. Not making the transition from public schools to the work force, and whose home-school-community environment impedes rather than enhances the chance they will stay in school and become prepared for employment.

The school provides services to these youth, in a structured residential environment, to prepare and assist them to achieve independence as soon as possible.

In seeking to fulfill its mission, realizing the multiple service needs of these youth, the school provides the following kinds of services:

1. Compensatory Education
2. Intensive Vocational Training
3. Pre-Employment Training
4. Job Placement
5. Counseling
6. Medical/Health.

The school will work with the other systems and agencies to provide resources and facilities which compliments its own facilities and resources, thus avoiding duplication of services.



Gov. Riley listens as state leaders discuss occupational and economic concerns.



# Behavioral Management Program

The management of behavior of students presently enrolled at Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School has evolved from current theories regarding behavior and the identified needs of the particular students being served.

## CASE MANAGEMENT...

Behavior of students during the school day, 8:15 AM to 3:10 PM, is the responsibility of Educational Services, under the direction of the Principal. During remaining hours, 3:10 PM to 8:15 AM and on weekends, this responsibility is carried by Educational Support Services with the Dean of Students serving as the assigned authority. There is close cooperation between the two departments and their effectiveness is enhanced by the case management program now in place. The case management team or OPP Team (Outline for Personal Progress Team) is made up of personnel from both Educational Services and Educational Support Services and they work together in providing students with an individualized program that attempts to meet their special needs. Behavior, being a vital part of a student's growth and development, naturally becomes a big consideration in the student's goals and objectives and in the strategies adopted for achieving them.

## TRUANT PROGRAM...

A new program for Truants which is being developed at the school draws heavily on the combined strategies of Educational Services and those of Educational Support Services in providing for student needs. The habits and attitudes which have resulted in a student's reaching the designation of "Truant" are often deep seated and require intensive individual counseling as well as group counseling. Positive reinforcement becomes an effective tool in dealing with most Truants. The case management approach allows a variety of personnel to contribute to changing the behavior patterns and attitudes of such students.

## THE SCHOOL DAY...

During the school day the Principal ad-

ministers behavior adjustment measures for problems that teachers do not handle in their own classrooms. The Point System, maintained by home room teachers, who also serve as chairpersons of the OPP Teams, provides a method of handling minor discipline problems. The "Time Out Room", where students who are upset and unable to function in their classrooms may go for short periods of time, is attended by assigned teachers who offer informal counseling when appropriate. When counseling by a member of Psychological/Social Services seems more appropriate, a member of that department is available. In instances of specified serious offenses or when repeated minor offenses result in total loss of points, a student is sent to "In School" suspension for a designated period of time, usually one, two or three days. This facility is staffed by a certified teacher and, in a very restrictive environment, students are given the lessons they were to cover in regular classes. In addition, a counselor from Psychological/Social Services is assigned to the area and individually counsels these students.

## AFTER SCHOOL...

During afternoon and evening hours the Dean of Students administers those behavior adjustment measures for problems that Youth Counselors do not handle within the dormitories. Minor or first offenses often result in room restrictions or work details. Continued minor offenses or some more serious ones may result in a student's being placed in "In House" suspension during the hours of 3:10 PM until 8:30 PM. They are usually assigned to this facility for periods of one, two or three days. A staff Youth Counselor is assigned to the "In House" group and a member of Psychological/Social Services visits the area on a daily basis, providing both individual and group counseling. Activities are designed to encourage students to recognize their behavior patterns and examine alternatives. Those students who continually break rules of a serious nature are placed in "Behavior Manage-

ment", the most intensive plan offered by Educational Support Services for bringing about behavioral change. In this plan the student is placed in a highly structured environment which starts as soon as school is out in the afternoon and continues until 10:00 PM. The student "earns" his/her way out of the program by cooperating and behaving appropriately. Two days of cooperative, appropriate behavior earns an hour of time in the regular program, so that eventually the student "earns" his/her way back into the schedule of activities and leisure enjoyed by other students. During the "Behavior Management" stay, students participate in group discussions, group counseling, individual counseling and a variety of activities aimed at helping him/her to respect rules and the rights of others, to make wise choices, to control emotions, to get along with others, and to have respect for him/her self.

The OPP Teams are kept informed about behavior of students around the clock. As indicated earlier, they fill a vital role in providing individualized programs which are designed to meet the needs of each student.

## CRISIS COMMITTEE...

Department heads in both Educational Services and Educational Support Services comprise a Crisis Student Committee which meets twice each month. Discussion is held on those students considered to be in a crisis position and in need of additional programming with intensive counseling and supervision.

By working together, those personnel directly responsible for students at Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School appear to be influencing students in accomplishing the behavior changes that will be necessary for them to lead productive, independent lives.

Dr. Jonnie A. Spaulding  
Dir. Ed. Support Services

## Board of Trustees Elected



Meadors



Thrailkill



Watt



Lindler

On Wednesday, April 17, 1985, Board of Trustees for the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School were elected during a Joint Assembly of the South Carolina General Assembly. Elected to serve four year terms were three incumbents; Mrs. Elizabeth Thrailkill, Fort Lawn; Mrs. Hannah C. Meadors, Columbia; Ms. Patricia Watt, Lexington; and newcomer Mrs. Frances P. "Mickey" Lindler of West Columbia.

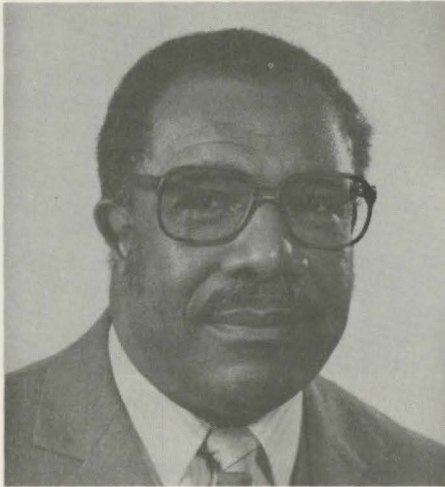
Mrs. Thrailkill works as a guidance counselor with the Chester County School System, Mrs. Meadors works in the Governor's Office of Executive Policy and Procedures, and Ms. Watt serves as Director of the Kershaw County Infant Stimulation Center in Lugoff. Our newest Board member, Mrs. Mickey Lindler, is employed with the South Carolina Industrial Commission as an Administrative Assistant.

## NEW TRUSTEE MEMBER

Mrs. Frances P. "Mickey" Lindler, an Administrative Assistant to the South Carolina Industrial Commission, and former administrative aid to the State Senate was elected to the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School Board of Trustees. Mrs. Lindler, called "Mickey" by her many friends, is a native of Lexington County where her father served as a Baptist minister for many years in West Columbia. She is married to Carl Lindler, a contractor, and they have two sons, Mike and Barry. Mike is employed with Palmetto Office Machines while Barry works with the State Senate. Mrs. Lindler is active in her community and the Opportunity School feels fortunate to have her as a Representative on the Board of Trustees.



## A TRIBUTE TO DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING



Commissioner James Solomon, Jr., South Carolina Department of Social Services

Mr. James Solomon, Jr., Commissioner of the South Carolina Department of Social Services was the guest speaker Tuesday, January 14, 1986 when the Opportunity School sponsored an assembly program entitled "A Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King."

Mr. Solomon spoke highly of the Slain Civil Rights Leader and praised his many accomplishment. As a native of Georgia, Mr. Solomon spoke about The Civil Rights Leader from experience because Mr. Solomon and the Reverend Dr. King were high school classmates in the Atlanta public schools.

On addressing the young Mr. King, Mr. Solomon stated, "He always seemed to be quiet and his classmates called him "ML"."

## BOARD MEMBER RETIRES



Mr. Clarence C. Rowland receives a plaque for fourteen years of service to The Opportunity School from Mrs. Hannah C. Meadors, Chairperson, Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School Board of Trustees. Making his home in Camden, Mr. Rowland chose not to seek re-election during the 1985 Legislative year. His leadership and presence will be missed by the staff, trustees and students.

## Senator Kay Patterson Speaks



Senator Patterson

Observance of Black Awareness Month started February 4 with Senator Kay Patterson as guest speaker during assembly.

He cited one of his favorite poems *Mother to Son*, by Langston Hughes, a Black poet, as the central theme of his address. The poem speaks of a mother talking to her son and telling how difficult life has been. The mother further stated that you can't get something for nothing and if you think you can then you are fooling yourself.

Senator Patterson told the student body that nobody is going to save you but that your going to have to do it yourself, whether in education, the business community, or in relationships with others. He also felt where there was no struggle there was no progress and that if one door is closed a thousand more will open.

Then the Senator spoke of his personal life and how he had overcome adversity. He told the students how he was raised by his two grandparents that were cooks for white families and that he raked leaves in the yards of many white families in Sumter. Now as he visits his childhood home he realizes his own ambition and drive to succeed has carried him above the people whose yards he once raked.

Senator Patterson gave a moving talk teaching them that others have struggles in the life too.

## A Sense of Mission

(Continued from pg. 1)

- 2) The present minimum age of 15 should be retained. The school presently is best equipped to serve the 15-21 year old population.
- 3) The school is to work for the short range on strengthening the many new programs initiated to serve the present population while exploring longer range possibilities for serving other populations, such as E.H. students.
- 4) The school is to maintain and strengthen its alternative status. A continuous evaluation should be made of the affects of the DMP on the alternative status of the School and any changes needed should be negotiated with the Department of Education.
- 5) The School should explore possibilities for assisting school districts to meet the needs of students who are overage for their grade, since these students are the most likely to drop out of school.
- 6) The School should maintain and strengthen its programs to provide vocational skills and employability training for its students.
- 7) The School should develop training packages and other materials concerning "proven practices" with the students it serves and disseminate these materials to other agencies who work with these students.

In conducting its Mission Study, the Board has gained a firmer sense of mission for the important work done by the Opportunity School. This sense of mission is felt by all staff and will translate into policies and program designed to better serve the needs of youth in our State.

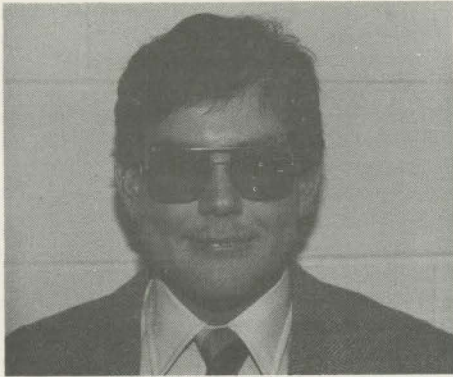
## ARTS IN EDUCATION

On Wednesday, February 12th the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School in conjunction with the South Carolina Arts Commission hosted the Solomons Company Dance in "Steps Number 9". The performing group is part of the Stage South Youth Tour which is being sponsored by

Arts in Education Program with the South Carolina Arts Commission. The performance presented was a lecture demonstration featuring modern dance and music enjoyed by today's youth.



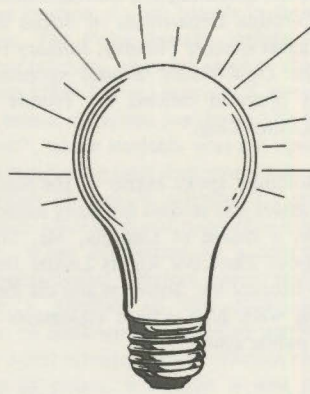
## SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS AND STAFF



**Michael Mantz**

Michael Mantz, a January graduate at the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School, was recently chosen as the Student of the Month for December. He is the nephew of Dr. and Mrs. David Husband of Chapin.

Michael was selected from among all of the students. He was chosen because of his citizenship, work habits, cooperation, and positive attitude. Michael is a real success story. After com-



pletion of the Food Service Program he went to work at the Marriott Hotel in Downtown Columbia. Because of his new job Michael moved into his own apartment and became engaged all in a period of one month.

We all wish Michael the best of luck in his new life and we will be following his rapid advancement in his new vocation.



**Mrs. Muriel Anderson**

Mrs. Muriel Anderson has been an employee of the State of South Carolina for almost 19 years, 12 of those years at Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School. For one year Mrs. Anderson served as School Recorder. She then became Secretary to the Principal, a position she held until 16 months ago. At present Mrs. Anderson has the personnel designation of Executive Support Specialist in the Department of Educational Support Services at the school, a position that carries a wide variety of responsibilities.

Mrs. Anderson received her professional training at Benedict College and Columbia Business School. She has also attended numerous special workshops related to her field. Recently she received extensive individual instruction in the area of computer management.

In her present role Mrs. Anderson handles clerical responsibilities for all of Educational Support Services, which includes Psychological/Social Services, Student Affairs, and Health/Medical Services. Among her many duties, she is responsible also for serving as Admissions Clerk, processing applications that are received and conducting or arranging tours of the campus for parents of prospective students and other interested persons. She provides clerical assistance in the Chapter I Federal Program, handled by Psychological/Social Services.

One of Mrs. Anderson's major responsibilities involves those activities related to maintenance of Outline for Personal Progress (OPP) folders and OPP Team information. Most recently she has been working on the development of a computer data base. This data base includes all student information that is included in individual OPP plans and will provide valuable statistics for current operation and future planning.

A devoted wife and mother, Mrs. Anderson is also involved in many civic, religious, cultural and educational activities in her community.

This efficient and caring staff member demonstrates her skills and abilities daily in the work she does here at Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School. Her relationships with personnel and students exemplifies her respect and concern for others.

Mrs. Muriel Anderson is a contributing, respected, admired and loved member of the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School family.

### Students Demonstrate The Christmas Spirit



Front row L to R: Debra Fischer, Beaufort; Margurite Hodge, Sumter; and Mrs. Barbara Ginn, Secretary at Epworth, is shown receiving the gifts on behalf of the children. Back row L to R: Michael Nixon, Columbia; Willis Brown, Hopkins; John Pinckney, Charleston; Hope Grant, Pawleys Island; Mr. Kenneth Blakeley, staff; Rhonda Pinckney, Charleston; and Mrs. Geraldine Bedenbaugh, student council sponsor.

On Wednesday, December 18, 1985, seven Opportunity School student council members representing the entire study body traveled to Epworth Children's Home in Columbia and presented Christmas gifts to the young people living at the home. It was a special time for the

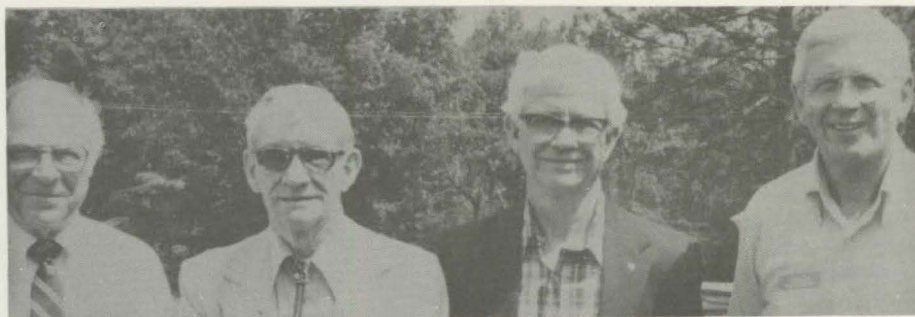
Opportunity School students since they gave the money which purchased the presents for those at Epworth. Student council faculty advisor, Mrs. Geraldine Bedenbaugh, and staff member, Mr. Kenneth Blakeley, chaperoned the event.



## CAREER PASSPORT PROGRAM

Thursday, May 16th, was a nerve-racking day for 20 Wil Lou Gray students who participated in the Career Passport Program last spring. Four volunteers from the Golden Kiwanis Club of Columbia were on campus that day to conduct "mock" job interviews with these students, helping them to develop the confidence and self-presentation skills they will need in order to have successful job interviews in the real world off-campus. The "mock" interview day was the culmination of our Career Passport experiment, incorporating what staff members had learned from an in-service presentation of the National Institute for Work and Learning of Washington, DC, held in March.

Students prepared themselves well for their "mock" interview experience. For several weeks, with the assistance of WLGOs teachers and counselors, they assembled information about their personal work histories, their references, job-relevant skills learned in school and in their homes and communities, and their short- and long-range job goals. This information was organized into individually typed resumes, called "Career Passports". For most, it was the first



Mr. Bill Ziegler, Mr. Frank Gaston, Mr. J.F. Copeland, and Mr. Lewis Shuler

time they had ever seen a positive written summary of their job-relevant skills, attitudes and experiences, and they were delighted with the Passports. Finally, students practiced their job interview skills for several days, with special emphasis on good eye contact, solid handshakes, and expressing enthusiasm for the hypothetical job opportunity. They also practiced using their Career Passports as a job interview resource.

Our Kiwanis volunteers, Mr. J.F. Copeland, Dr. Frank Gaston, Mr. Lewis Shuler, and Mr. Bill Ziegler, shared some of their own early work

experiences with the students before staging the mock interviews. Afterward, each of the "interviewees" was commended for good personal presentation skills and all of them were very proud of what they had accomplished.

Our thanks go to our Kiwanis friends who gave their time and energy so generously for this project. Wil Lou Gray students learn a great deal when they interact with concerned citizens from the community, and the WLGOs staff looks forward to extending similar mock interview experiences to more students this school year.

### STAFF/FACULTY NOTES

Mrs. Charlene Trapp, History Teacher, is the proud mother of a baby boy. We are sorry to report that Mrs. Dale Bosworth, Home Economics Teacher, has resigned. Mrs. Bosworth is the proud mother of a new baby girl and plans to stay at home with the baby and her two children. Mr. Dee Vest will replace Mrs. Bosworth for the remainder of the year. Also, Mrs. Linda Marshall, Math Teacher, is the proud mother of a new baby boy.

Ms. Paulette Boyd, Librarian, was recently married and is now Mrs. Paulette Boyd Silvera. The Food Service Program under Mr. Bill Whitaker has developed a canteen for students and teachers. The canteen has provided practical experiences for students in the food service program. Mr. Pelham Myers, Auto Mechanic Teacher, attended an auto mechanic workshop in Atlanta, Georgia. As a final note, the faculty and staff would like to express condolences for the passing of the father of Mr. Harry Williams, Art Teacher; the father of Mrs. Paulette Smith, Science Teacher, and the sister of Mr. Pelham Myers, Auto Mechanic Teacher.

Mr. Pat Smith, Director of Administration is participating in Leadership South Carolina this year. The program, initiated by Governor Riley, selects promising young leaders and provides them unique training and experience. Mr. Pat Smith and Mr. John King participated in the Academy in State Management in December. The Academy is administered by the University of South Carolina Bureau of Governmental Research and Service.

Dr. Johnnie Spaulding, Director of Educational Support Services, attended the 1985 John

K. Cauthen Memorial Leadership Award Banquet sponsored by the Educational Resources Foundation recently. The awards were presented to Mrs. Therese K. Dozier, South Carolina and National Teacher of the Year and The Honorable Richard W. Riley, Governor. She also attended the organizational meeting of the SCIP Advisory Council. It is a special program conducted by Lexington/Richland Alcohol & Drug Abuse Council. She will be the school's representative.

Richard Guess, Youth Counselor, has been actively involved in several Alcohol and Drug Abuse workshops. The most recent one was Forum on Alcohol & Drug Abuse: Issues in the Black Population.

Ms. Geraldine Goodwin, Student Counselor, has represented the School in several workshops including the Statewide Conference for New Counselors, South Carolina Youth Worker Association and Juvenile Delinquency in the Black Community.

Ms. Marjorie Sanders, in addition to her counseling duties is involved in supervising two interns from the University of South Carolina, School of Social Work. They are scheduled to complete their internship in May.

Mrs. Virginia Taylor, School Psychologist, attended the Interagency Training Task Force, Mental Health Annual Meeting, Hearing Officers Training and several others.

Mrs. Emma Alley, Nurse Practitioner, has been very busy with all health responsibilities and also attending workshops including Teenage Pregnancy, Family Planning and Drug Induced Gastritis.

### SHADES OF GRAY

Mr. Caskey  
Former Director,  
Dies

Mr. Micajah (Mike) P. Caskey, Sr., 80, of West Columbia died Thursday, January 30, 1986. Mr. Caskey was named the fourth Director of the Opportunity School in 1968 and served until his retirement in 1971.

Before coming to the Opportunity School Mr. Caskey was a former coach and teacher at Seneca High School and also served as Principal and Superintendent in the Bennettsville Public Schools.

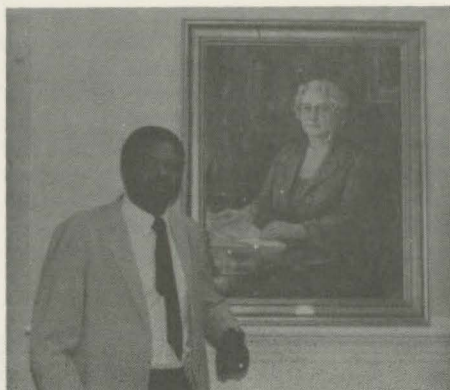


# NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

## Mr. John Robinson - Principal

Mr. Robinson is a native of Spartanburg, South Carolina. He graduated from Carver High School in 1966, and received a B.A. Degree from South Carolina State College in 1970. He received his Master's Degree in Education from the University of South Carolina in 1974.

He comes to the Opportunity School after serving for fifteen years as a Teacher Coordinator and an Assistant Principal in Richland County District One. Mr. Robinson was chosen as Richland District Two's 1979 Teacher of the Year and a 1980 runner-up for Teacher of the Year for the State of South Carolina.



**Mr. John Robinson**  
Principal

## Geraldine D. Bedenbaugh - Language Arts

A native of Columbia, Mrs. Bedenbaugh attended the local schools. She is a graduate of Benedict College receiving her BA in 1968. She is also the mother of two daughters. Mrs. Bedenbaugh has taught English and Reading in Spartanburg City Schools.

## Harry Williams - Art

Mr. Williams comes to the Opportunity School from Lee County Schools. He is a graduate of South Carolina State College and is presently enrolled in the graduate program at the University of South Carolina. He also attended Furman University's Governors School for the Arts. Mr. Williams is an art teacher and he also works in the G.E.D. Lab.

## Karla Taylor - Nurses Technician

Mrs. Taylor attended Trevecca College in Nashville, Tenn. for pre-nursing and graduated from the University of Tennessee with a BS degree in Nursing in 1983. For the past two years she has worked in a neonatal intensive care unit and is married to Dr. James Taylor, a Columbia Optometrist.

## Mr. J.D. Parker - Building Construction

Mr. J.D. Parker comes to the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School from serving the past twelve years as the District Builder within his church organization. This position required him to travel throughout South Carolina, erecting



Seated L to R: Karla Taylor, Geraldine D. Bedenbaugh  
Standing L to R: J.D. Parker, Harry Williams, Pelham Myers

churches and church related buildings. It has also taken him to four foreign countries: Nassau, Bahamas; Barbados, an island in the West Indies; Nazareth, Israel and Costa Rica in Central America.

He has also taught science and served as Athletic Director at Roy Hudgens Academy in Lynchburg, South Carolina. Mr. Parker's hobby is flying.

## Pelham Myers, Sr. - Auto Mechanics

Pelham Myers is the new Auto Mechanics Instructor at the Opportunity School. He formerly taught auto mechanics at Lower Richland High School in Columbia and has also taught at LynHaven Career Center in Richland County. Prior to his employment with LynHaven he was with the Transportation Division of the State Department of Education. We are pleased to have Mr. Myers on the faculty at the Opportunity School.

## EXPLORER NEWS

Post 591 of the Explorers met last fall to organize the club schedule. The group attended classes in multimedia first aid with the following Explorers receiving certification: Don Combs, Pelion; Margurite Hodge, Sumter; Jeff Hein, Lexington; Debra Fisher, Beaufort; Wesley Mitchum, Mt. Pleasant; Neil Lowder, Scranton; Wayne Miller, Ladson; Carl Brinson, Mt. Pleasant; Tony Jackson, Lugoff; Bobby Hawes, Mt. Pleasant; and David Williams, Charleston.

This past fall the Explorers were involved in the University of South Carolina football games. The Explorer Post supplied first aid and services for all home games. Also the group sponsored an American Red Cross Blood Drive whereby all staff and students were encouraged to participate in this community spirit program.

## STATE EMPLOYEE SAFETY BELT POLICY

Since the state has the responsibility to protect the lives of employees performing state business and since it is in the interest of all state employees to protect themselves and others in state-owned vehicles against death, injury and economic loss, the following policy shall become effective immediately:

1. All state employees of the State of South Carolina shall wear a safety belt at all times when operating or being transported as a passenger in a state-owned vehicle equipped with safety belts. It shall be each occupant's responsibility to insure compliance with the State's safety belt policy.
2. All state employees are encouraged to use safety belts when traveling in a private vehicle.
3. A copy of this policy shall be provided to every employee of the state.



## Foster Grandparents



L to R: Mrs. Floree Williams, Mr. William Hankerson, and Mrs. Vera Harrelson

The Foster Grandparent's Advisory Council meeting was held January 22 in the Archives Room of the Administration Building. Lunch was served in the cafeteria and campus tours were scheduled for interested individuals. Three members of the Foster Grandparents Program are currently working at the Opportunity School assisting in activities in two female dorms and one male dorm.

The three Foster Grandparents are Mrs. Floree Williams of Columbia, retired from the Department of Mental Health; Mr. William Hankerson of Columbia, a retired brickmason; and Mrs. Vera Harrelson also of Columbia, and retired as a teacher after employment with the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. They counsel with the students and assist with student activities.

## DR. WIL LOU GRAY'S PORTRAIT COMMISSIONED

The South Carolina General Assembly, during its 1984 session, honored Dr. Wil Lou Gray by enacting a proviso which charged the South Carolina Art Commission, in cooperation with the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School, to Commission a portrait of Dr. Wil Lou Gray to be hung in the South Carolina State House.

In recognizing Dr. Gray's achievements the General Assembly cited her pioneering work in adult education, her founding of the Opportunity School which now bears her name, her work to

combat illiteracy and the many honors and awards bestowed upon her during her long and fruitful life.

Commissioned to do the portrait of Dr. Gray is Mr. Michael Del Priore of Irmo. His work includes the commissioned portraits of Senator and Mrs. Strom Thurmond, former Governor James B. Edwards, former Congressman William Jennings Bryan Dorn, State Representative Hyman Rubin, and United States 4th Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Robert F. Chapman.

Mr. Del Priore has studied with renowned artists such as Ariel Bessiner, Gain Cassone and Ray Goodbred. He's a faculty member at Gibbs Art Gallery in Charleston and a member of the American Portrait Society and the National Portrait Institute of New York. Del Priore is famous for capturing character and personality in his work and feels a portrait painter must like people to be successful.

The portrait is scheduled to be completed in late April. An unveiling ceremony will be held in the State House sometime in May.



Dr. Wil Lou Gray

## Opportunity School Joins South Carolina High School League

Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School has been accepted in Conference A, Division IV of the South Carolina High School League. The division comprises the seven schools of Blackville-Hilda High, Gilbert High, Hunter-Kinard-Tyler High School, Pelion High School, Ridge-Spring Monetta High, Wagner-Sally High and Williston-Elko High. The Opportunity School will compete in the following sports starting in the 1986-1987 academic year; basketball, track, tennis, and baseball.

## VALENTINE'S DANCE AND PARTY

The Columbia Doll Club, a group of 50 Doll Collectors in the Columbia metropolitan area, sponsored a Valentine's Party February 14, 1986. Jean Traynham, the president, and the club members contributed soft drinks and food for a very special evening of entertainment and fun. The club sponsored the party as its annual spring project and gave door prizes and gifts to the students who danced to the tunes of Donnie Brooks, a disc jockey and student at the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School. Everyone also received

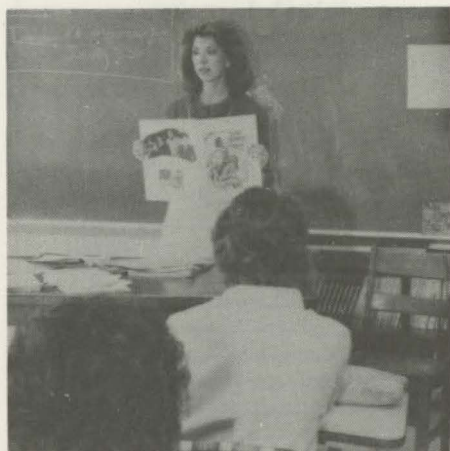
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## A Second Chance

The Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School in conjunction with ETV has produced a twelve minute video cassette tape on The Opportunity School titled "A Second Chance". The promotional take provides information about the school from the viewpoint of students, who tell why they came to the Opportunity School and what the school is like. It can be obtained on loan in either BETA or VHS format. Any school or school district can request a copy by simply calling or writing the agency. The Opportunity School encourages schools or district personnel to request copies of "A Second Chance" for viewing with families and prospective students and/or for learning more about the agency. Please contact the Development Office, Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School, West Campus Road, West Columbia, S.C. 29169 or call 803-758-2503 if you desire a video cassette tape.



## Career Awareness Workshop



Judy Nixon with Collins Modeling Agency during Career Awareness Day

The Psychological and Social Services Staff sponsored Career Awareness Day January 9, 1986. Students were asked to sign up for two career sessions out of the fifteen offered. Two faculty and/or staff members were assigned to each workshop with local guest lecturers from respected professions providing the necessary knowledge on each career. Careers included the Army, Auto Mechanics (Midlands Tech), Business Management/Accounting (Rutledge College), Computer Science/Data Processing (Midlands Tech), Cosmetology (Farrah Beauty School), Dental Hygienist/Dental Assistant (Midlands Tech), and Food Service. Other workshops included Law Enforcement (University of South Carolina), Modeling (Collins Modeling Agency), Navy, Nursing (Midlands Tech),

Secretarial Science (Rutledge College), Building Construction, Travel (Palyoh Travel Agency), and Winning Job Search, Job Search Techniques (Rutledge College).

## Biography of Wil Lou Gray

The publication date for **Let My People Learn**, the long-awaited biography of Dr. Wil Lou Gray and founder of the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School, will soon be announced.

DeMaris Ayers, author, would like to thank all of the people who have already paid for their copies. Their payment is being held in an escrow account and their copies will be the first mailed.

If you would like to have copies reserved for you please mail your name and address and state the number of desired copies to P.O. BOX 2291, COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29290.

## Valentine's Party

(Continued from pg. 7)

ed heart shaped pencil erasers given by the club members. The students took the responsibility to decorate the gymnasium and clean up afterwards. Most of the club members were not aware of the Opportunity School until they sponsored the Valentine's Party. Mrs. Frances "Mickey" P. Lindler, Board of Trustee member and a charter member of the Columbia Doll Club, initiated the activity.

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Sam F. Drew, Jr. . . . . Superintendent  
George M. Smith . . . . . Editor

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